Recently Government have decided to set up 100 growth centres during the next five years all over the country. The identification of centres will be done in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

Request for Royalty on crude oil by Maharashtra Government

677. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government have requested the Central Government for royalty on Oil and Natural Gas extracted from Bombay High and similar off-shore structures near Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government for payment of royalty on off-shore production of oil and gas to the concerned maritime States. Payment of royalty on production of mineral oil is governed by the provisions of the Oil Fields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 1959 under which royalty on offshore production of oil and gas is payable to the Central Government only.

Natural gas reserves

678. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present quantum of natural gas reserves in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that large reserves have been discovered recently in some parts of the country; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the target of natural gas reserves expected by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period as compared to the Sixth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) As on 1-1-88, the balance recoverable reserves of natural gas in the country is about 579 Billion cubic metres.

(b) The balance recoverable reserves of natural gas as on 1-1-85 was 478.63 billion cubic metres and this has increased to 579 billion cubic metres as on 1-1-88. The increase in reserves is mainly in Gujarat, Western offshore, Assam and Assam-Arakkan fold belt.

(c) The balance recoverable reserves of gas at the end of Sixth Plan plan period was about 478 billion cubic metres. The target for the Seventh Five Year Plan is addition of about 331 billion cubic metres of ags reserves.

Recovery of overcharged amounts from drug companies

679. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the measures announced in December, 1986 the amount overcharged by the drug companies has to be recovered;

(b) if so, the names of the drug companies against which different courts passed judgements for the recovery of overcharged amounts;

(c) whether his Ministry has worked out the overcharged amount of each company;

(d) if so, what is the amount worked out against each;

(e) what is the amount recovered from each company upto the 15th July, 1988 and what is the balance to be recovered alongwith the reasons for non-recovery;

(f) what are the heads under which the amount so collected will be spent and how much amount has so far been spent under each head; and

(g) what is the amount lying in the DPEA account upto 15th July, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The details of the tentative amount assessed and recoverable from some of the companies for the period ending 31-12-1983 and the amount recovered in each case upto 15th July, 1988 are given in reply in parts (c) to (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 650 dated 1-8-1988.

(f) and (g) The amount collected is being spent in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1979 & 1987. To the extent information is available, an amount of Rs. 51-17 lakhs is lying in the DPEA.

Decontrol of the Sale of cement

680. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to fully decontrol the sale of cements;

(b) if so, when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(c) up to what extent Government will exercise control on the sale price of cement after the decontrol?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The Government have been progressively reducing the price and distribution controls on the cement industry, in recent years. However, no decision has been taken so far to decontrol cement fully.

Letter of intent converted into licences

681. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters of intent issued during 1982 to 1987;

(b) what is the number of letters of intent converted into licences during the above period;

(c) what was the amount of new investment during the period under private sector and public sector;

(d) what is the number of sick industries during the period (year-wise); and

(e) what is the number of sick units nursed back to health during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) 6738 letters of intent were issued during the years 1982 to 1987.

(b) 2651 letters of intent were converted into industrial licences during the above said period.

(c) Information relating to actual investment made in the licensed projects is not maintained centrally in the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals, Ministry of Industry.

(d) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. As per the available data, total number of large scale units reported to be sick in the country during the years 1982 to 1986 were as follows:

As at the end of	Total number of large scale units reported to be sick
December, 1982	444
December, 1983	491
December, 1984	545
December, 1985	637
December, 1986	714

(e) During the period 1982 to 1986, 87 large units were revived.